

Randy was born in Alameda, California and was raised in a family that valued the importance of environmental activism. From a young age, he was passionate about politics, the environment, and social justice. Randy went on to graduate Summa Cum Laude from University of Oregon, in 1990, with a degree in Political Science.

While in Oregon, Randy was an elected City Councilor in Eugene, Oregon, and worked as Director of Legislative and Community Affairs at University of Oregon. He is remembered there for his leadership in successful efforts to restore state funding for public higher education, and for winning voter approval of funding to build and improve local fire department facilities.

Randy returned home to California in 2000, settling in scenic Comptche, California, in the heart of Mendocino County. Always a steward of the environment, Randy planted 2,800 redwoods on his 50 acres to aid its return to the natural conifer forest it once was. He served on many committees and boards of groups fighting for action on climate change, including as Chair of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club's Climate and Energy Committee. In his professional work, he served as partner/owner and COO of a successful online business offering continuing education for health care professionals.

Randy's community service was both deep and broad. Randy advocated in Washington, D.C. for all rural communities to have high speed internet connectivity, and he succeeded in bringing this to Comptche in 2009. He was an active volunteer with the Comptche Volunteer Fire Department for twenty years, still holding the position of Safety Officer at the time of his death.

Randy is survived by his wife Janis, stepson Jonathan, father James and his wife Carol, siblings Charlotte, Gail, and Mark, stepbrother Rande, and stepfather Ed, five nieces, and one nephew.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in extending condolences to Randy's family and many friends, and in expressing our deep appreciation for Randy's extraordinary dedication throughout his life to the betterment of our natural environment and the broader community.

HONORING ADEOLA "ABRAHAM"
OLAGBEGI

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Adeola "Abraham" Olagbegi from Jackson, Mississippi.

After a successful bone marrow transplant in November 2020, Adeola Olagbegi was given a chance to Make-A-Wish. Instead of wanting something a typical 13-year-old fighting cancer may ask for, he used his wish to start something bigger than himself.

Mr. Olagbegi chose to use his wish to feed the homeless for a year in his hometown, Jackson, MS. Before being diagnosed with Aplastic Anemia, a rare and life-threatening blood disorder, Mr. Olagbegi and his family looked forward to feeding the homeless every

third Saturday in every month. This service to the community is known as "Abraham's Table." "It was always a good thing to do, and that's what I grew up doing that, so I go back to my roots to do what I was taught to do."

"I am a person of hope, so when you come against a big mountain, you have to remember you have a big God." Mr. Olagbegi is a living testimony that if you pour out good unto God's people, God will turn around and bless you beyond measure.

After 10 months of "Abraham's Table", Mr. Olagbegi hopes to turn his wish into a non-profit organization that will continue to impact the City of Jackson for the better. Since the beginning of Abraham's Table, Mr. Olagbegi has fed over hundreds of homeless citizens.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Adeola "Abraham" Olagbegi for his dedication to serve the homeless for years to come.

COMMENDING THE LEADERSHIP
OF DAN FINCH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commending the leadership of Dan Finch, Texas Medical Association Vice President of Advocacy, upon his retirement after 39 years of exemplary work on behalf of patient care and the physician practice of medicine.

Daniel "Dan" Thomas Finch was born on November 16, 1952, reared on the outskirts of Washington, D.C., the eldest of seven children, and the son of a Navy veteran. He moved to Texas in 1982, to work for the Harris County Medical Society before heading to Austin in 2006 to join the public affairs advocacy team of the Texas Medical Association.

Dan's commitment to hard work and serving others began early in life in Catholic school as an altar boy and later with his first job out of University of North Carolina as a bus driver. These early life experiences molded Dan's leadership, communication, and navigation skills which serendipitously led him into a medical association communications position with the North Carolina Medical Society, and then a brief stint with the American Medical Association in Chicago, before heading to Houston where he began a 24-year stint with the Harris County Medical Society, and eventually to Austin where he has served the past 15 years with the Texas Medical Association.

Dan's rapid trajectory and success professionally in the field of medical association communications and advocacy was matched only by his private life as a Renaissance man who developed keen interests as a guitarist, singer, photographer, golfer, motorcycle enthusiast, world traveler, cigar aficionado, Astros baseball fan, home gardener, and outdoor grill master.

Dan has been equally well grounded as a dedicated husband to his loving wife, Becky, for the past 41 years, as a caring father to their daughter, Liz, and son, Nate, and as the loving "Pops" to all of his grandchildren. He has offered his many talents to the community, including being a member of his church band in Houston which performed every Sunday in their Hawaiian shirts. His respect

among his working peers, his dedicated service to the more than 53,000 member physicians in the Texas Medical Association, and his public affairs accomplishments in both the Texas Legislature and in Congress led to his ascension as Vice President of Advocacy for the Texas Medical Association.

Texas is a better and healthier State in part to Dan's steadfast commitment to the highest standards and quality of patient care in Texas, protections for physician autonomy in caring for their patients, common sense health insurance reforms which put patients before insurance profits, and medical liability protections which prevent lawsuit abuse.

Dan's most memorable advice to his younger colleagues was, "A doctor long ago told me if we do what's right for patients, we'll do what's right for physicians, and that's always been my guiding light."

Dan and Becky are now replacing the rolling Texas Hill Country of Austin with a retirement home closer to their grandkids in the rolling hills of Manhattan, Kansas (which is much preferable to that other Manhattan).

I ask that my fellow Members join me in saluting the life, work, and accomplishments of Daniel "Dan" Thomas Finch, on behalf of the Texas Medical Association, for a healthier Nation. I am humbled to formally declare Dan a "great American" who has earned his retirement spurs and a "great Texan" (even if he's not in Texas anymore).

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CHERYL CATES

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Key West's former First Lady, Cheryl Cates. Her outstanding public service to the Florida Keys and South Florida and unwavering sense of conviction earned her the respect and admiration from those who knew her and anyone she crossed paths with.

Cheryl led an incredible life full of perseverance and devotion. She was selfless and dedicated to our community having served on several boards and committees. In 2012, Cheryl was awarded the Community Service Award of Excellence for her committed decade of service to Zonta, an organization dedicated to empowering women through service and advocacy. Additionally, she was awarded the Key West Business Guild's Presidential Award and the Key West Star Award from the Chamber of Commerce for her grand contributions over the years.

Cheryl's tremendous service over the years was exemplary. Her legacy is a testament of what it means to be selfless and noble. Her ongoing support and encouragement for local non-profits fostered great awareness in the Keys. Cheryl served as the First Lady of Key West for more than a decade, representing city leadership at hundreds of events throughout former Mayor Craig Cates' time in office.

A woman of dignity and integrity, Cheryl Cates will be remembered for her lifelong charitable contributions to Key West and her dedication to public service. It was a pleasure knowing her. She will be profoundly missed.

May God bless Cheryl Cates.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 373; NAY on Roll Call No. 374; YEA on Roll Call No. 375; YEA on Roll Call No. 376; NAY on Roll Call No. 377; NAY on Roll Call No. 378; NAY on Roll Call No. 379; YEA on Roll Call No. 380; NAY on Roll Call No. 381; NAY on Roll Call No. 382; NAY on Roll Call No. 383; YEA on Roll Call No. 384; NAY on Roll Call No. 385; and NAY on Roll Call No. 386.

HONORING MICHAEL R. MELILLO

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and pay tribute to Michael Melillo, of Niles, who passed away on Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at the Cleveland Clinic. He was 64 years old.

He was born April 6, 1957, in Warren, the son of Ray and Jean Walden Melillo. Mike was a 1975 graduate of Niles McKinley High School and owned and operated Men's Union Barbershop as well as the adjoining beauty shop, Hair Design by Michael. Mike deeply loved the city of Niles, and he was a beloved fixture of the community. For the last almost 40 years, he could be found daily at his Robins Avenue barbershop—an establishment built by Mike's immigrant grandfather, Phillip Melillo in the 1930s.

He was a lifelong member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Parish in Niles and was a proud Italian-American. His world revolved around his family and nothing pleased him more than to be surrounded by his adorable grandkids.

Mike led a very active and healthy lifestyle. Beyond daily fitness, Mike enjoyed golfing, swimming, running and playing bocce. He loved basketball and was known for his sharp jumpshot all the way up until he quit playing in his late 50s. Many of Mike's days were spent coaching his children's youth sports teams and eventually attending his grandchildren's games. Mike restarted the Mount Carmel grade-school basketball program with Stu Sussman in 1999, where his teams were exceptionally successful in both winning games and building life-long loving friendships. Family traditions were important to Mike. In the summer, he could be found tending his garden and, in the fall, crushing grapes in the wine cellar. Mike was also a Niles Frontliner who had a reverence for the proud Red Dragon Football program.

Mike meant the world to his loved ones and served as the guiding star for his wife and children. He will be gravely missed by his father of Niles; his wife, Gerri Gatta Melillo; a son, Vincent Melillo and his wife, Christina of Dublin, Ohio; two daughters, Michelle Spano

and her husband, Randy of Canfield and Rose Allison Johnson and her husband, Chaz of Niles; a brother, Raymond T. Melillo and his wife, Pam of Poland; three sisters, Vickie Janik and her husband, Ed of Niles, Monica Melillo and her fiancé, Bill Hensley of Painesville and Gwen Maynard of Youngstown; seven grandchildren, Chaz, Enzo, Nico, Mia, Carmela, Capri and Michael; and a little girl due in June (Vince and Christi). He was preceded in death by his mother.

A friend to so many, Mike had a one-of-a-kind sense of humor. He had a knack for building profound relationships and leaving a positive impact on people's lives. While his presence will be most painfully missed by both his family and community, his influence will be everlasting.

HONORING KNOXVILLE CHIEF OF POLICE EVE THOMAS' RETIREMENT

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Knoxville Police Chief Eve Thomas, who recently announced her retirement after nearly 30 years in law enforcement.

Chief Thomas joined the Knoxville Police Department in 1993. She served in many capacities, including as a Patrol Officer, Problem Solving Instructor, Field Training Officer, and a Domestic Violence/Terrorism Instructor at Walters State Community College.

In 1998, she was promoted to Sergeant and served as an Accreditation Manager, Patrol Sergeant, and Personnel Sergeant.

Chief Thomas was promoted again in 2005 to the rank of Lieutenant. With this promotion, she assumed administrative responsibilities of KPD's specialty units, including the Crisis Negotiation Unit, Special Operations Squad, K9 Unit, and several others. She was critical to all these units' operations and, as a result of her reliable performance, Chief Thomas was given additional responsibilities as Patrol Lieutenant, Central Business District Supervisor, and Traffic Services Supervisor.

In 2011, Chief Thomas achieved the rank of Captain and gained supervision of KPD's Support Services Division.

In 2013, she was assigned to the Patrol Division as East District Commander, and then served as Commander of the Department's Internal Affairs Unit and the Criminal Investigations Division.

In February 2018, Chief Thomas was promoted to Deputy Chief over the Criminal Investigation Division. Four months later, she became the 26th Chief of Police and the first woman to hold the top position at the Knoxville Police Department. She has served in this position ever since.

Chief Thomas dedicated her career to protecting the people of Knoxville. I thank Chief Thomas for her service. I wish her the very best in her retirement.

ARKANSAS CODING ACADEMY

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Arkansas Coding Academy on their 5-year anniversary.

Since its foundation in 2016, the Arkansas Coding Academy has provided roughly 300 students with the tools and resources needed to succeed in the rapidly growing tech industry and programing opportunities across central Arkansas.

Individual courses typically last only four weeks, and the curriculum as a whole is typically completed in six to nine months.

Their annual Demo Day provided students with the opportunity to show off their final projects while also having the opportunity to be recruited by hiring managers.

The Arkansas Coding Academy develops skilled workers, and I am proud to have such an outstanding program in central Arkansas.

HONORING MARC BOSWELL

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer sympathy and prayer to the community of Andrews, as well as the family of Marc Boswell, who was tragically killed in a bus crash while traveling with the Andrews High School Band to a Mustangs playoff game two weeks ago.

Marc Boswell was a humble and beloved Andrews public servant, who tragically passed away in the bus crash.

Marc devoted his life to Andrews—as a high school math teacher, employee of the Andrews school district, involved community leader, and beloved friend, father, husband, and son. After retiring, Mr. Boswell stayed busy running stats for the Andrews football team, timing the swim team meets, and driving buses for Andrews ISO sports and extra-curricular activities.

He was known for his servant heart, incredible work ethic, infectious smiles, and deep love for his wife Carol and his children and grandchildren.

Andrews ISO and our communities across West Texas are mourning the loss of Mr. Boswell.

Camille and I are sending our support and prayers to Andrews and to Mr. Boswell's family.

HONORING ROSETTA MILLER-PERRY AND THE TENNESSEE TRIBUNE

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker I rise today to honor The Tennessee Tribune, one of Tennessee's most influential publications, and Rosetta Miller-Perry, who is the paper's founder, publisher, and CEO.